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RFC Editor

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RFCs and the RFC Editor

The Requests for Comments (RFCs) form a series of notes, started in 1969, about the Internet (originally the ARPANET). The notes discuss many aspects of computer communication, focusing on networking protocols, procedures, programs, and concepts but also including meeting notes, opinion, and sometimes humor. For more information on the history of the RFC series, see "[30 Years of RFCs](#)". The early RFCs include a trove of history about the early development of computer communication protocols, from which modern Internet technology was derived.

A recent [tutorial](#) for RFC authors contains an overview of the RFC Editor and the RFC series.

The [function of the RFC Editor](#) is primarily to publish and archive RFCs. The RFC Editor is responsible for the final editorial review of the documents and attempts to maintain the standards of the series. The RFC Editor maintains a [master repository](#) of all RFCs, which can be [retrieved in segments](#). The RFC Editor also maintains a master RFC index that can be [searched](#) online.

The RFC Editor is funded by the [Internet Society](#).

RFC Categories

Each RFC has a "category" or "status" designation. The possible categories (see [RFC 2026](#) "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3") are:

- STANDARD, DRAFT STANDARD, PROPOSED STANDARD

These are *standards-track* documents, official specifications of the Internet protocol suite defined by the [Internet Engineering Task Force \(IETF\)](#) and its steering group the IESG.

- BEST CURRENT PRACTICE

These are official guidelines and recommendations, but not standards, from the IETF.

- INFORMATIONAL, EXPERIMENTAL

These non-standards documents may originate in the IETF or may be independent submissions.

- HISTORIC

These are former standards that have been actively deprecated.

Copyrights

RFC documents are governed by very liberal [copyright rules](#), which are essentially meant only to prevent the blatant misuse of RFC text.

Publication Language

Like the Internet itself, the IETF and the ISOC are international organizations with representation from all areas of the world. However, English is the primary language in which IETF business is conducted, and **English is the official publication language for RFCs**.

[RFC 2026](#) "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3" specifically allows RFCs to be translated into other languages than English, and [repositories](#) may exist for RFCs that have been translated into particular languages. This is highly desirable and useful, and the RFC Editor encourages it. However, it is not possible for the RFC Editor to certify that such translations are accurate. Therefore, the function of the RFC Editor with respect to non-English RFCs is limited to providing pointers to such non-English language RFC repositories. Upon request, the RFC Editor will list any such repository on this Web page.

Publication Process

References

- ["Instructions to RFC Authors"](#) (formerly RFC 2223).
- [RFC 2026](#) "The Internet Standards Process -- Revision 3".

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